



Lipid-Lowering Agents

Drug Class	Starting Dose	Effect on Lipids	ADR	Contraindications	30-Day Cost
1. Statins		LDL ↓ 18-55%	myopathy	absolute: liver disease	
Lovastatin	20mg QD	HDL ↑ 5-15%	↑ LFT	relative: certain drugs†	\$11.70
Atorvastatin	10mg QD	TG ↓ 7-30%			\$39.00
2. BSA		LDL ↓ 15-30%	GI upset	absolute: TG > 400mg/dl & dysbetalipoproteinemia	\$44.40
Cholestyramine	4gm QID	HDL ↑ 3-5%	Constipation	relative: TG > 200mg/dl	
		TG ↑ or no change	↓ absorption drugs		
3. Nicotinic Acid		LDL ↓ 5-25%	flushing	absolute: chronic liver disease,	
Niacin	500mg TID	HDL ↑ 15-35%	hyperglycemia	severe gout	\$0.90
Niacin TR	500mg BID	TG ↓ 20-50%	hyperuricemia	relative: PUD, diabetes, hyperuricemia	\$0.60
			GI upset		
			hepatotoxicity		
4. Fibric Acid		LDL ↓ 5-20%	dyspepsia	absolute: severe renal or	
Gemfibrozil	600mg BID	HDL ↑ 10-20%	gallstones	liver disease	\$5.40
		TG ↓ 20-50%	myopathy		
			unexplained non-CHD deaths		

† cyclosporine, macrolide antibiotics, azole antifungals, protease inhibitors, cytochrome P450 inhibitors (use fibrates with caution)